

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figs. 4 and 6. No new matter has been added.

Fig. 4 has been amended to add reference label 3 as suggested on page 4 of the Office Action.

Fig. 6 has been amended to remove reference labels 22(15), 23(14) and 27 in response to the objection on page 3 of the Office Action.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claim 3 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are pending in the present application.

The objections to the disclosure listed on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action are noted. In response, Applicants have amended the specification and drawing Fig. 6 as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

The objection to drawing Fig. 4 on page 4 of the Office Action is noted. In response, Fig. 4 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The objection to claim 1 on page 4 of the Office Action is noted. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner. This amendment to claim 1 does not alter the scope of claim 1, and has not been made to define over the prior art. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,920,245 to Ishikawa et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent claim 1 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record is a line transition having "a conductive pattern formed on the dielectric substrate, the conductive pattern including a coupled-line pattern segment electromagnetically coupled with the electromagnetic waves propagating through the waveguide and a transmission-line pattern segment extending

from the coupled-line pattern segment," wherein "an edge of the dielectric substrate has a notch in the vicinity of the coupled-line pattern segment," "and the notch does not extend to ends of the edge of the dielectric substrate in which the notch is located."

Because the notch does not extend to the ends of the edge of the dielectric substrate, the notch can act as a guide for proper location of the dielectric strips. Thus, the variation in the positional relationship between the coupled-line pattern segment of the dielectric substrate and the dielectric strip can be minimized.

While Ishikawa et al. teaches the use of a dielectric substrate having a notch, the notch of Ishikawa et al. extends all the way to an end of the edge of the dielectric substrate in which the notch is located. Ishikawa et al. does not teach or suggest a dielectric substrate having a notch that "does not extend to ends of the edge of the dielectric substrate in which the notch is located" as required by independent claim 1. In fact, inasmuch as Ishikawa et al. teaches that the notch extends all the way to an end of the edge of the dielectric substrate, it teaches away from the invention as defined in independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Claims 2 and 4-6 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and include all of the limitations found therein. Each of these dependent claims include additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of the claims from which they depend, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record. Accordingly, claims 2 and 4-6 are likewise patentable.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of the amendments to the specification and drawings, favorable consideration of the amendments to claim 1, and allowance of the present application with claims 1, 2 and 4-6 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments